

Utah State Board of Education
Resolution Regarding the Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Program

November 9, 2007

Whereas: The State Board of Education is committed to ensuring success for all students;

Whereas: The State Board of Education is committed to increasing graduation rates and achievement levels among minorities;

Whereas: The State Board of Education is committed to raising standards of rigor for the entire high school experience and increasing the number of students entering postsecondary education;

Whereas: Recent data demonstrates the relationship between strong comprehensive guidance and counseling programs and student achievement, school retention, planning beyond high school, parent involvement, and student focus;

Whereas: The national recommended counselor to student ratio is 1:250 and many Utah secondary schools have ratios in excess of 1:500;

Whereas: The increasing demands of students with high-risk factors (mobility, low socio-economic status, English language learners), and increasing numbers of students, make it essential that local district and building level policies and practices require school counselors to work directly with students;

Whereas: State funding for comprehensive guidance and counseling has not kept pace with the student increases nor with the increases of the number of participating schools, including charter schools;

Whereas: State funding provides a very small percentage of the total cost of the comprehensive counseling and guidance district programs;

Whereas: The State Board's recommended 2008 budget appropriation of additional, on-going funding for comprehensive counseling and guidance is \$9,000,000;

Now, therefore, let it be:

Resolved, that upon actual appropriation of the above amount by the Utah State Legislature and Governor, the Utah State Board of Education shall require that counselor to student ratios be reduced to 1:350 in schools, grades 7-12, that accept funding for comprehensive counseling and guidance, and;

Resolved, that local district and building level policies and practices free school counselors from activities or assignments that lead to a service deficit for students, parents or guardians. Such non-school counseling activities include test administration and coordination or any other assignments inconsistent with the Utah model for comprehensive counseling and guidance;

Resolved, that the Utah State Board of Education shall encourage local districts and charter schools to develop comprehensive counseling and guidance programs K-12;

Resolved, that the Utah State Board of Education will continue its support of comprehensive counseling and guidance program and standards for students in grades K-12.